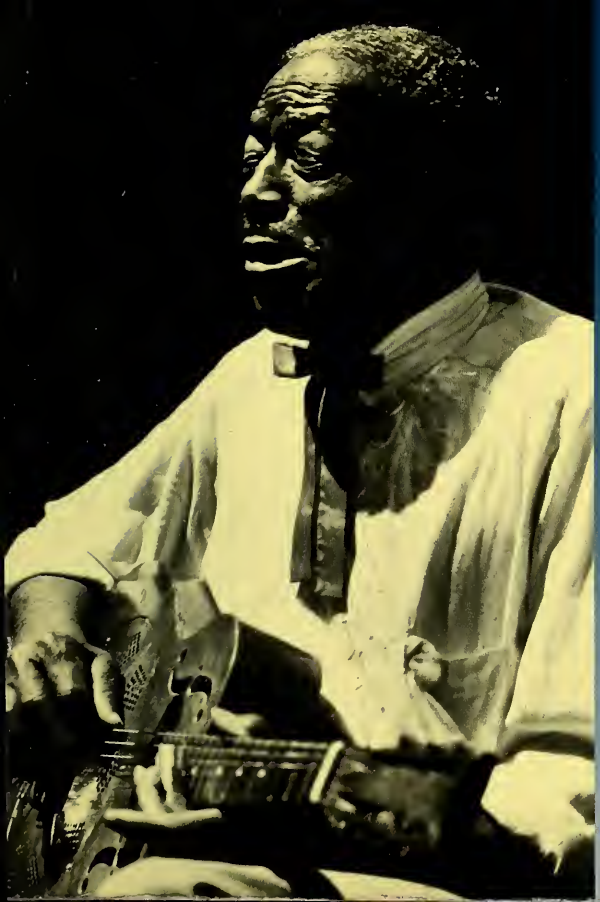

the blues

a book of postcards

blues

POMEGRANATE ARTBOOKS
SAN FRANCISCO

Pomegranate Artbooks
P.O. Box 808022
Petaluma, CA 94975

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Stephen LaVere has been taking and collecting photographs since pianist and songwriter Walter Gross (he wrote "Tenderly") gave him a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye as a gift for his eleventh birthday. Except for a short time in the late 1960s, when he worked as a freelance professional, LaVere has been an independent amateur, totally involved with the music and musicians he loves so dearly. A good portion of his interest is devoted to the documentation of Blues and its practitioners, and it is part of this work and collection that Pomegranate is proud to present here. While you may have seen some of these portraits before (a few have appeared in regional newspapers or specialty publications), most will be new to you.

These thirty photographs are chosen from LaVere's extensive and varied collection of portraits and candids. A reproduction from a Paramount Records catalog (Race Supplement) of the Founder of the Delta Blues, Charlie Patton . . . a portrait of the King of the Delta Blues Singers, Robert Johnson . . . the earliest known photographs of Chicago blues giants Sonny Boy Williamson II and Howlin' Wolf . . . a shot of B.B. King performing in short pants in his own home town . . . Furry Lewis, Bukka White, Sleepy John Estes, Revs. Robert Wilkins and Gary Davis, Fred McDowell and Mississippi John Hurt all seen as they appeared on or backstage at latter-day Folk or Blues festivals . . . Harmonica Frank, the great white bluesinger and inspiration to a number of early rockabillies, including a young Elvis Presley, who is seen shoulder to shoulder with two other Memphis upstarts who also went on to fame and fortune far greater than they ever imagined — they comprise a fascinating look into the world of Blues as seen and captured or preserved by Stephen C. LaVere.

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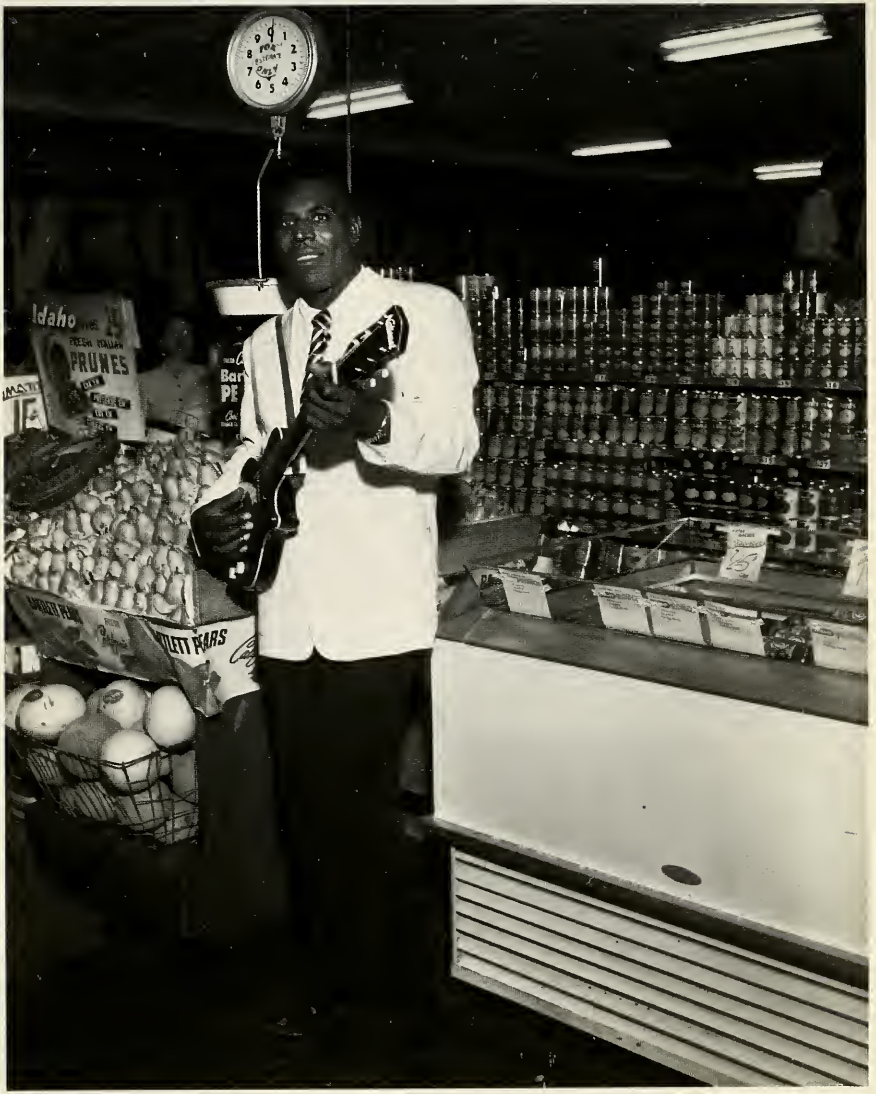
Idaho
PRUNES
BARTLETT PEARS

The Blues

The Howlin' Wolf at the grand opening of a West Memphis, Arkansas, grocery, c. 1950. This is the earliest known photograph of him, taken by E.C. Withers.

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The Blues
Mose Vinson, Memphis session man at his home,
April 7, 1971

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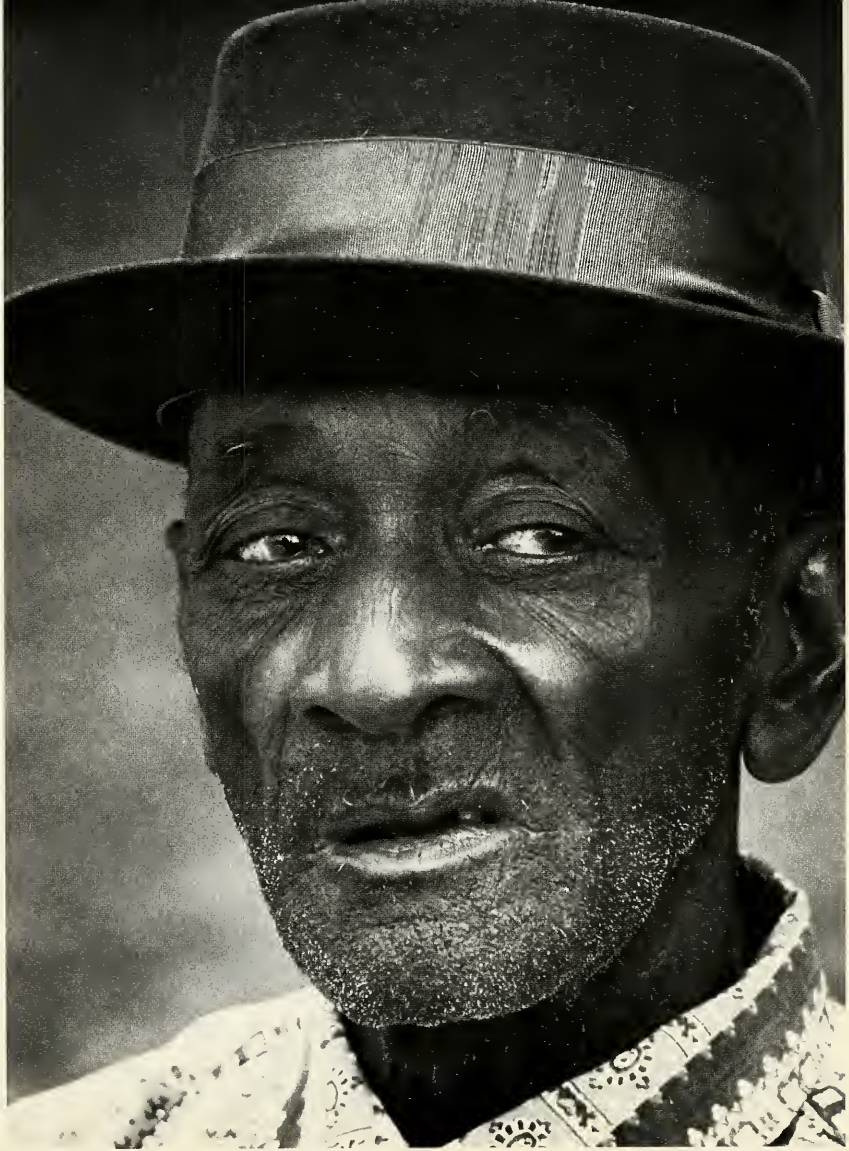

The Blues
Mance Lipscomb, Newport Folk Festival, 1965

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HOOKS BROS.
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The Blues
W. C. Handy, Father of the Blues, Memphis, c. 1930

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"SENSATION STATION OF THE NATION"
WDIA
"73" ON YOUR DIAL
JOE HILL LOUIS
"The BE-BOP BOY"
And His
ONE MAN BAND
Memphis Tenn.

The Blues
Joe Hill Louis, early 1950s

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Harmonica Frank Floyd, Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, Summer, 1972

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The Blues
Robert Johnson, King of the Delta Blues Singers,
Dime store photo, early 1930s

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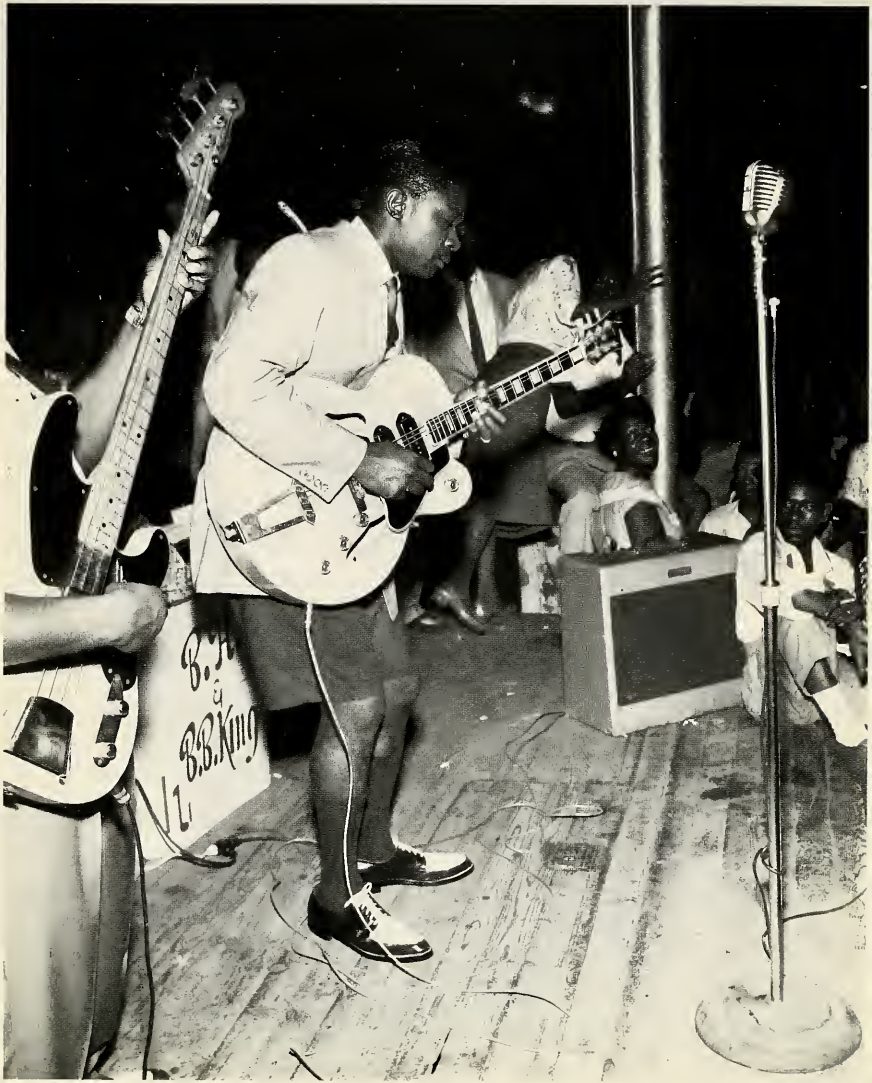
B.B.King

The Blues
B. B. King with Bill Harvey's band at Club Handy,
Memphis, early 1950s

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The Blues
Joe Willie Wilkins during the filming of *The Friendly Invasion,* BBC-TV, Hollywood, Mississippi, June 29, 1973

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Robert Jr. Lockwood and Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson,
Ann Arbor Blues Festival, 1973

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The Blues
Big Joe Turner filming *A Night at the Barrelhouse,*
PBS-TV, 1969

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The Blues
T-Bone Walker at the filming of *A Night at the Barrelhouse,*
PBS-TV, Los Angeles, 1969

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nn Arbor
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PERFORMER

The Blues
Roosevelt Sykes, Ann Arbor Blues Festival, 1973

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The Blues
Little Junior Parker, Elvis Presley and Bobby "Blue" Bland,
1956

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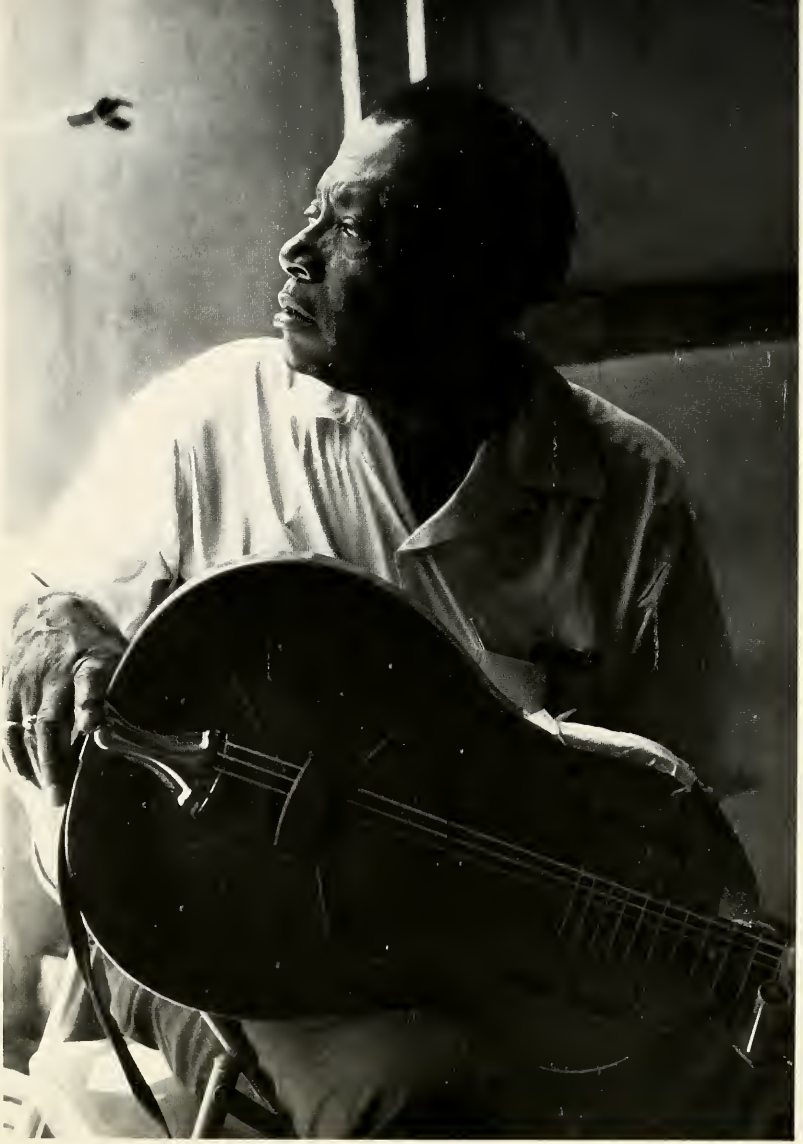

The Blues
Bukka White, Memphis Country Blues Festival, 1969

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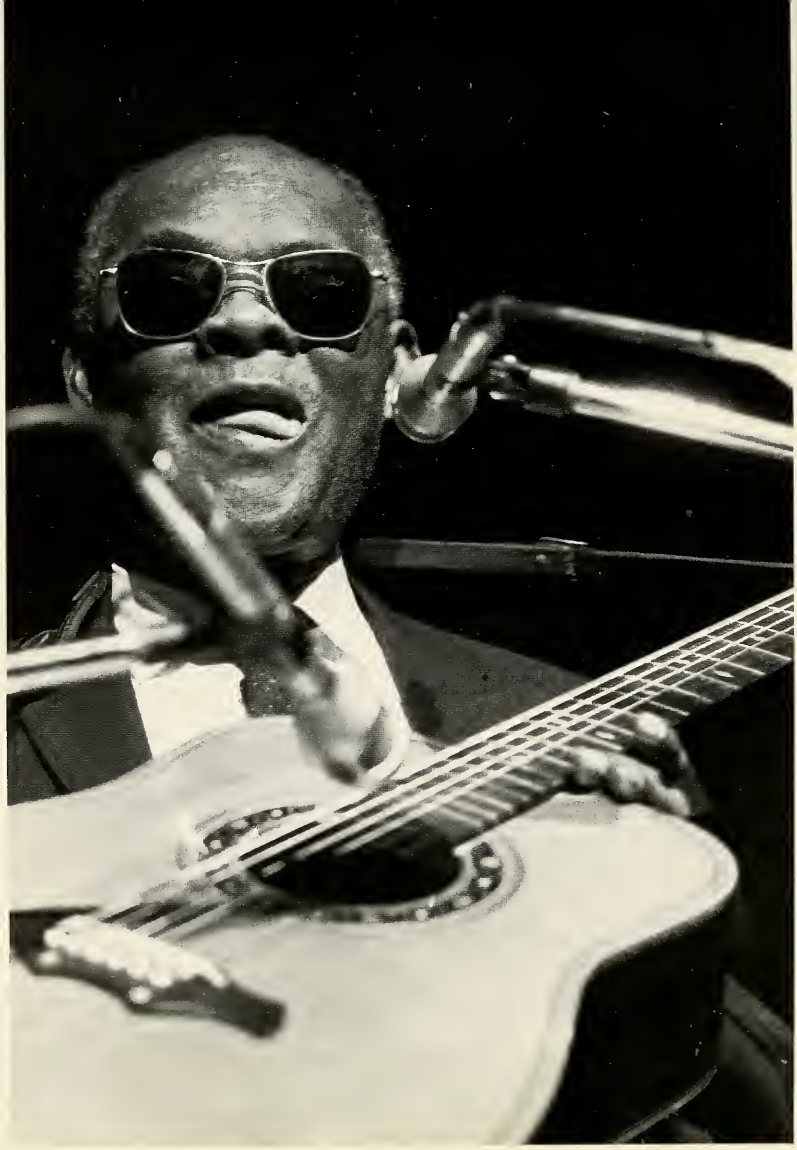

The Blues
Rev. Gary Davis, Berkeley Blues Festival, 1970

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LITTLE BOY BLUE

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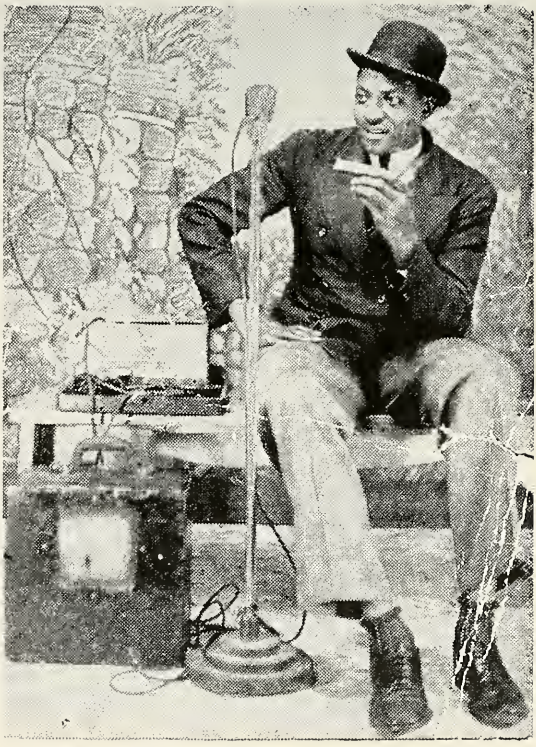

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Sonny Boy Williamson II, c. 1937. This is the earliest known photograph of him.

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Willie "61" Blackwell, Memphis, June 7, 1971

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The Blues
Rev. Robert Wilkins, Memphis Country Blues Festival, 1969

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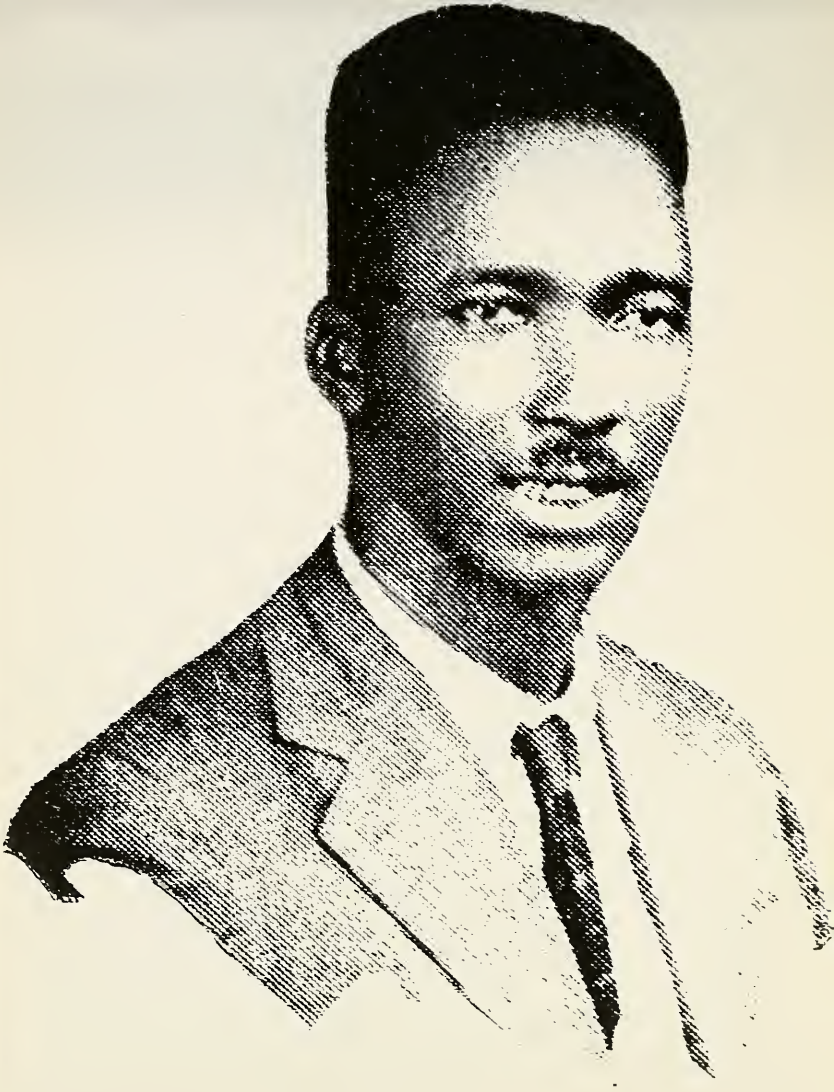

The Blues
Tommy Johnson, photo from a Victor Records catalog, 1929

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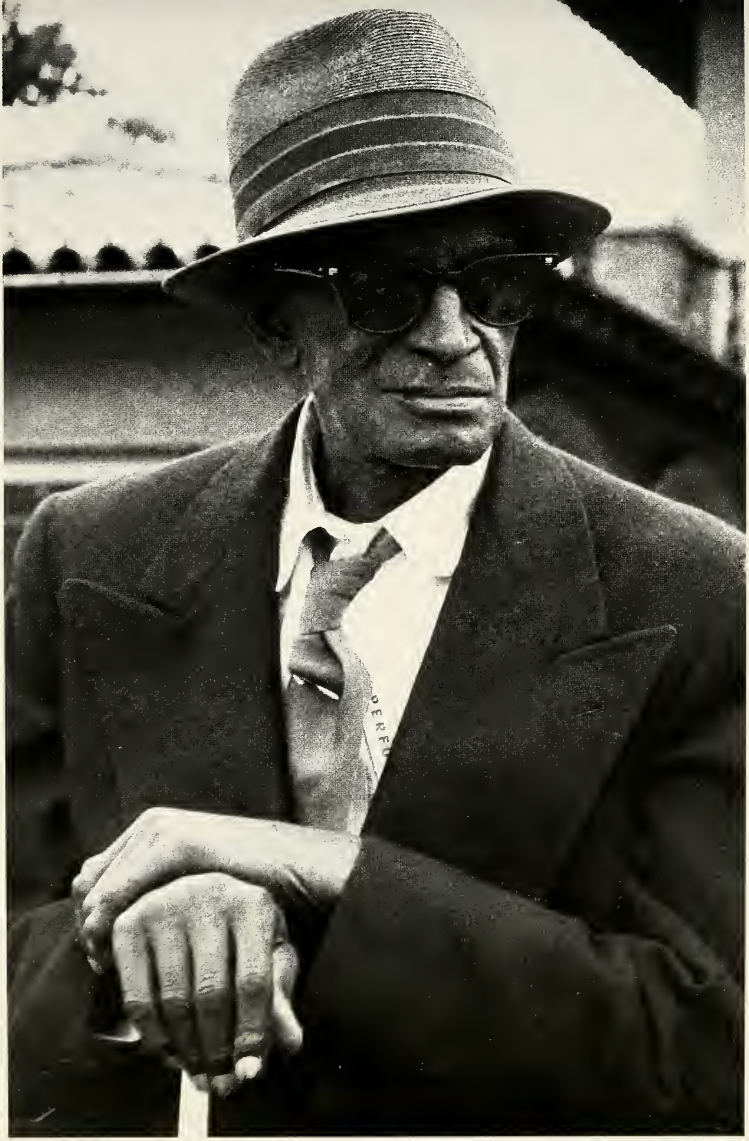

The Blues
Sleepy John Estes, Newport Folk Festival, 1964

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The Blues
Furry Lewis, Memphis Country Blues Festival, 1969

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Walter Horton and Jimmy DeBerry, reunion at Memphis,
August 29, 1972

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The Blues
Charlie Patton photo from a Paramount Records catalog,
c. 1929

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Lightnin' Hopkins, Newport Folk Festival, 1965

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The Blues
Fred and Annie Mae McDowell with Mississippi John Hurt,
Newport Folk Festival, 1964

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Muddy Waters during recording sessions for World Pacific's
A Tribute to Little Walter, Liberty Studios, Los Angeles, 1968

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The Blues
Sam Chatmon, Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife,
July, 1972

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The Blues
Dewey Corley, last surviving member of the Memphis Jug Band, June 22, 1971

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Son House during a performance at Berkeley, California, early 1970

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